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Abstract

An aqueous acidic solution for forming a conversion coating on the surface of a metallic material, said solution containing at least one rare earth element (as herein defined) containing species, an accelerator additive selected from the group consisting of metals of Group IB, IIB, IVA, VA, VIA and VIII of the Periodic Table, a peroxidic species and at least one acid selected from the group of mineral acids, carboxylic acids, sulphonic acids and phosphonic acids, wherein said solution contains no more than 20 mg/litre each of fluoride and of phosphate, and the solution is essentially free of chromate.